



House Bill No. 6580

Special Act No. 21-27

AN ACT CONCERNING AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The University of Connecticut shall study the feasibility of establishing or expanding programs of study and community outreach programs related to food and agricultural literacy by increasing opportunities for interactions with farms in rural, suburban and urban communities. Such study shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination of the feasibility of (1) developing certificate, degree or extension programs or programs for independent study related to best management practices for agricultural or aquaculture sustainability, ecosystem health concerning plants and animals, urban farming and gardening and food product development and marketing, (2) developing community outreach programs for students in grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, through agriculture and aquaculture science programs or through participation with organizations such as Future Farmers of America, a local 4-H organization or an independent farm that provides agricultural education programs, (3) developing community outreach programs to support state residents in identifying means of accessing fresh food products, exploring healthy eating and interacting with local farms, and (4) using grants or other funding opportunities to establish

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such programs or support existing programs.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2022, The University of Connecticut shall submit a report on the findings of the feasibility study, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher education.

Approved July 13, 2021